

not, are repeated herein below. Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 4 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend the claims as follows:

1. (AMENDED) A homogeneous floor covering comprising a cross-linkable, elastomer material having a multicolored, directionless pattern, and a thickness of 1.5 to 3.5 mm, the floor covering, in the case of floor covering having widths of 1 m to 2 m, has no change in thickness exceeding + 5% over its entire width, the floor covering has a minimum elongation of 60% according to DIN 53 504, the floor covering contains 3 to 20 percent by weight, with respect to the floor covering's total weight, of a copolymer of ethylene including at least one comonomer selected from the group consisting of
 - vinyl esters of saturated carboxylic acids having up to 4 C-atoms in the acid group,
 - unsaturated mono- or dicarboxylic acids,
 - esters of unsaturated mono- or dicarboxylic acids having up to 8 C-atoms in the alcohol portion, and
 - α -olefins having 4 to 10 C-atoms,the ethylene content of the copolymer being 40 to 95 per cent by weight, the co-monomer content 5 to 60 per cent by weight, and the melt-flow index of the copolymer lying between 0.1 and 50.
2. (AMENDED) The floor covering according to claim 1, wherein the floor covering contains 3 to 10 per cent by weight of a copolymer.
3. (AMENDED) The floor covering according to claim 1, wherein a

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plurality of granular particles form the floor covering, the granular particles have a single color.

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5. (AMENDED) The floor covering according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of granular particles form the floor covering, the granular particles have a colored pattern.

6. (AMENDED) The floor covering according to claim 2, wherein the granular particles forming ~~the~~ floor covering have a colored pattern in and of themselves.

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending and stand rejected. In the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the Information Disclosure Statement and states that the cited U.S. and foreign patents were illegible. In addition, claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Finally, claims 1-6 stand rejected as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,017,586 to Payn et al.

Objection to Information Disclosure Statement

In response to the objection to the Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants submit herewith a copy of each reference along with a supplemental IDS and request that the reference be made of record.

Indefiniteness Rejection

In response to the indefiniteness rejection of claims 1-6, the claims have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now overcome.